



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 July 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has preliminarily labeled more than 200 chemical facilities, including university laboratories, at highest risk for a potential terrorist attack. (See item [4](#))
- Gardasil, the cervical cancer vaccine from Merck & Co., has been linked to the paralysis of a 13-year old girl, as well as two other teenage girls. Gardasil was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June 2006. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 8, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Coalition holds Gulf exercises to protect oil installations.** U.S. and allied navies on Tuesday wound up exercises in the Gulf, the U.S. Fifth Fleet said, as Iran warned it would strike American interests in response to any attack over its nuclear program. The Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet said the five-day drill was aimed at protecting oil installations in the energy-rich region. Exercise Stake Net, involving ships from Britain, the U.S., Bahrain, and other regional navies sought to “protect key economic infrastructure in the central and southern” Gulf, the Fifth Fleet said in a statement. Its aim was to “practice the tactics and procedures of protecting maritime infrastructure, such as gas and oil installations,” said the commander of Combined Task Force 152 operating in the Gulf. A Fifth Fleet

spokeswoman said the exercise ended on Tuesday. “It was in the planning from months,” she said when asked if the exercise was in response to tensions with Iran. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/gulfusiranmilitary>

2. *July 7, WorldNetDaily* – (National) **Congress examines EMP threat.** More than four years after a stunning report about America’s vulnerability to a nuclear electromagnetic pulse attack was released to Congress, the House Armed Services Committee will hear testimony from the scientist who issued the warning and who believes Iran is pursuing such an option. The chairman of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack will update the committee Thursday morning. He warned in 2005 that Iran was covertly developing nuclear weapons and already testing ballistic missiles specifically designed to destroy America’s technical infrastructure. Iran has conducted successful tests to determine if its Shahab-3 ballistic missiles, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, can be detonated by a remote-control device while still in high-altitude flight, he said in his report. He said then there was no other plausible explanation for such tests than preparation for the deployment of electromagnetic pulse weapons – even one of which could knock out America’s critical electrical and technological infrastructure, effectively sending the continental U.S. back to the 19th century with a recovery time of months or years. Detonated at a height of 60 to 500 kilometers (37 to 310 miles) above the continental U.S., one nuclear warhead could cripple the country – knocking out electrical power and circuit boards and rendering the U.S. domestic communications impotent. A 2004 report by the Commission said hardening key infrastructure systems and procuring vital backup equipment such as transformers is both feasible and – compared with the threat – relatively inexpensive. Source: <http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=69056>
3. *July 7, Reuters* – (California) **California grid urges conservation amid heat, fires.** With fires still causing concern among California power grid operators, this week brings high heat that may lead to near-record electricity demand throughout the state, the grid manager said on Monday. The California Independent System Operator (ISO) asked consumers to curb their power use in the peak 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. period Tuesday through Thursday as the grid nears capacity. Fires in the Santa Barbara area have caused outages since last Wednesday and continue to concern utility workers on Monday, said a spokeswoman of the line’s owner, Southern California Edison (SCE). “The fire continues to burn in and around our lines,” she said, speaking of the 220-kilovolt Goleta transmission line and the more local distribution lines. “It is very likely that we will have more power outages affecting large groups of people.” SCE has lost some wooden poles that hold up both the 220-KV Goleta transmission line as well as distribution lines. The poles are fast being replaced by utility workers. Cal ISO power demand is seen approaching 48,000 to 49,000 megawatts during peak hours later this week, said a Cal ISO spokeswoman. Those levels are near record demand on ISO-managed lines of about 50,270 megawatts from July 2006. There were no formal alerts asking utilities to curtail generation or maintenance shutdowns. In Sacramento in northern California, highs are expected to be 108 F Wednesday, 103 F Thursday, and 100 F Friday, forecaster AccuWeather.com said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0743260620080708?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *July 7, Chemical & Engineering News* – (National) **Department of Homeland Security sends letters to high-risk facilities.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has preliminarily labeled more than 200 chemical facilities, including university laboratories, at highest risk for a potential terrorist attack. DHS has winnowed this number from a pool of about 7,000 facilities under review in its chemical plant security program. The agency had identified these facilities from a larger pool of 32,000 and ranked them according to a four-tier system. The highest risk facilities will be subject to the most stringent federal regulation and may be fined for noncompliance or even shuttered. For now, the designation by DHS means that these facilities must complete a more detailed security and vulnerability assessment.

Source: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i27/8627notw1.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *July 8, Economic Times* – (International) **IAEA conducts nuclear accident response exercise in Mexico.** The United Nations' atomic watchdog said on Tuesday it would conduct a major exercise to test the response to a simulated accident at a nuclear power plant in Mexico starting on Wednesday. A total 74 IAEA member states and ten international organizations are to take part in the 48-hour drill, a mock radiation emergency at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant in Alta Lucero, Mexico, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement. The aim is to evaluate national and international preparedness for a possible nuclear or radiological emergency. Once the exercise is over, the IAEA will prepare and publish a report, summarizing the major findings of the simulation and providing insight into possible shortcomings in national and international emergency response systems, it said.

Source:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/PoliticsNation/IAEA_conducts_nuclear_accident_response_exercise_in_Mexico/articleshow/3210650.cms

6. *July 8, Reuters* – (Georgia) **Southern Ga. Hatch 1 reactor exits outage.** Southern Co.'s Unit 1 at the Hatch nuclear power station exited an outage and ramped up to 39 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On Monday, the unit was operating at three percent. The unit automatically shut from full power on July 4 due to a turbine trip.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUKN0848430420080708>

7. *July 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Georgia) **NRC issues confirmatory order to former Hatch nuclear plant contract employee.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a confirmatory order to a man who was employed as a contract electrician at Southern Nuclear's Hatch nuclear plant near Baxley, Georgia, in early 2006. The NRC's Office of Investigations found that he failed to provide complete and accurate information on his application for plant access. As a result, the NRC staff identified an apparent violation, and the man requested the NRC's alternative dispute resolution process. Under the terms of the agreement and confirmatory order, the man has agreed that his actions were in violation of NRC regulations and acknowledges the seriousness of the actions.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-038ii.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *July 7, Discovery News* – (National) **Laser gun could detect roadside bombs.** Soon bomb squads could safely tell if a suspicious package is an explosive, and from up to 100 meters (328 feet) away, using a laser system developed by researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Eventually the same technology that could save soldiers from roadside bombs could also spare civilians from food poisoning, say the researchers. The system is based on a series of quantum cascade, solid state lasers. Each laser sends out a pulse of light in specific infrared frequencies. When the lasers hit an object coated with residue from explosives, the light scatters. Some of it bounces back and is picked up by quartz crystals, which act like tuning forks, changing the electromagnetic waves into acoustic waves. By determining which quartz crystals are activated, and running that specific activation signature through a computer with the chemical signatures of known explosive agents, the system can determine which type of explosive was used. The new system is so sensitive it can even pick up traces of TNT and other explosives floating in the air. In a different setting, the same system could be programmed pick up signatures associated with spoiled food. The researchers expect the system can scan up to 100 meters (328 feet), which they will soon test. A car-mounted system could happen in as little as a couple of years. The system will continue to shrink physically while expanding capability. The lasers, which are eye-safe, can be easily mass produced and the researchers expect the price will continue to drop. Eventually the researchers envision the system becoming so cheap and small that consumers could find one on their cell phone and use it to scan fruit for freshness.
Source: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2008/07/07/laser-bombs.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *July 8, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Identity thieves skim credit info at gas pumps.** A new practice uses small devices that swipe credit information as people swipe debit or credit cards. Such devices, called skimmers, were apparently furtively installed as early as late April on some Wawa gas pumps in Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, and

Chester Counties, as well as New Castle County, Delaware, according to the Pennsylvania State Police. The stolen debit card information was then used to withdraw money directly from bank accounts. Tens of thousands of dollars were taken from several dozen accounts, according to a trooper of the Media Criminal Investigation Unit. The withdrawals were made at automated teller machines at convenience stores and Atlantic City casinos. The devices were actually installed inside the pumps, making them difficult to detect, the trooper said. Authorities are looking for two men photographed by surveillance cameras.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/news_breaking/20080708_Identity_thieves_ski_m_credit_info_at_gas_pumps.html

10. *July 7, KNDO/KNDU 23/25 Kennewick* – (Washington) **Watch out for ATM thefts.** Scam artists are finding ways to keep your ATM card and get your pin number. In a video sent to KNDU by a viewer, a thief is putting a trap inside the ATM machine. When the victim tries to get money out, his card gets stuck. Then the suspect comes back and pretends to help the victim, telling him to put in his pin number. The suspect then walks away with a stolen card and someone else's money. The trap is a plastic device put inside the machine. This video also has a tip for ATM users. If your card ever gets stuck, check the card slot for any tampering and if you find anything unusual report it to your bank.

Source: http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8631640&nav=menu484_2

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Transportation Sector

11. *July 8, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Airlines' staffing in a steep descent.** United Airlines, Frontier Airlines, AirTran Airways, and other carriers are cutting jobs as they grapple with high oil prices and a slowing economy that is dampening demand for air travel. As of June 1, United Airlines began laying off about 335 workers at its Elk Grove Township, Illinois, operations center, according to a notification of the job cuts filed with the state. An aviation analyst said Monday that airlines have never had to make cuts on this scale and are not likely to get the correct balance the first time around. He predicts airlines will trim capacity in fits and starts through mid-2009 as they try to match their network size to passenger demand that is likely to diminish further as fares rise. Airlines are operating in uncharted territory as they plan to eliminate 10 to 15 percent of their flights, he said. United plans to cut about 950 pilot jobs as it retires 100 aircraft, 20 percent of the total it operates, through the end of 2009.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-tue-united-layoff-jul08,0,3026443.story>

12. *July 8, Scranton Times-Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania bridge repairs slated; NEPA bridges included.** More than 400 deteriorating bridges, including several spans in Northeastern Pennsylvania that carry Interstate 81 traffic, will see speedier repairs under a state borrowing plan authorized Monday, which authorizes the borrowing of \$350 million so the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) can start repairs in fiscal

2008-09 on 411 bridges. The list includes 11 bridges in Lackawanna County, seven in Luzerne, five in Monroe, eight in Susquehanna, and six in Wayne. PennDOT will sell state bonds to investors and draw on state and federal funds to pay for the work. The 411 bridges on the final list were selected based on a structural risk assessment, traffic volume, the potential impact on commuters and emergency vehicles if the bridge had to be closed or posted for weight, and the speed with which repair contracts can be awarded, said a PennDOT spokesman.

Source: http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19836383&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=415898&rfti

13. *July 7, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **California's airport projects may be grounded.** Thanks to higher oil prices, fares are rising, airlines are cutting flights, older gas-guzzling planes are being mothballed, and passenger fees are being added almost weekly. Now improvements worth hundreds of millions of dollars at aging passenger terminals and other airport facilities are in jeopardy. These projects are financed with fees paid by airlines that use the airport. But airline industry officials have begun warning airport operators that major service cuts are on the way and they need to consider the consequences of a prolonged economic downturn before proceeding with expensive capital improvements. Some major expansion and renovation projects are getting a second look. Oakland International Airport has shelved plans for a \$500-million terminal after it lost three airlines, with two more to be lost in September. Passenger traffic is expected to fall more than 23%. Depending on what happens later this year and beyond, airport operators say plans for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and facilities in San Bernardino, Long Beach, and San Jose could also see revisions. Citing robust foreign travel, LAX officials say they will proceed with a multibillion-dollar plan to improve Tom Bradley International Terminal, including installing new gates on the west side that can accommodate the next generation of large aircraft, such as the Airbus A380. LAX is preparing to sell almost \$1 billion worth of bonds to investors this month to help finance the first round of improvements.

Source: <http://travel.latimes.com/articles/la-trw-airports7-2008jul07>

14. *July 7, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Train derailment spills coal into Yellowstone River.** The earth underneath railway tracks gave way early Monday, derailing several freight cars and spilling an unknown amount of coal into the Yellowstone River, authorities said. No one was reported hurt in the train accident, and the coal was not believed to pose a major risk to humans. Nine of the train's 123 coal cars and its trailing locomotive derailed in a rural area at about 1:15 a.m. Monday, according to a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. The incident left at least one coal car and the locomotive partially submerged in the river, which runs next to the tracks less than a quarter mile from Interstate 94. The derailment occurred because the river's "significantly" high water level undermined the railway bed, according to the spokesman. About 125 feet of track collapsed and washed away under the weight of the train.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,377022,00.html>

15. *July 7, WLBT 3 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Train derailment still under investigation.** The main line of the Canadian National Railroad through Mississippi is blocked by a 43-car derailment. It occurred Sunday night, near Kearney Park just north of Flora and south of Middle Road. The derailment involved a 90-car freight train traveling northbound from Louisiana to Illinois. A spokesman for Canadian National in Chicago said the 43 derailed cars were empty hopper cars and there was no release of hazardous material. No one was injured. Amtrak is using buses between Memphis and New Orleans because of the wreck. The cause is still under investigation, but track conditions in the area have been ruled out.
Source: http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8631476&nav=menu119_3
16. *July 7, Associated Press* – (New York) **Near-miss reported at NY's JFK Airport.** Air traffic controllers say two planes – one departing and one landing – came within about 100 feet of a collision at New York's Kennedy Airport (JFK) over the weekend. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials said Monday they could not immediately confirm the report. One of the airlines said it hadn't received any report of the incident. National Air Traffic Controllers Association's spokesman said Cayman Airways Flight 792 executed a routine "go-around" – pulling up at the last minute instead of landing – around 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Meanwhile, LAN-Chile Flight 533 was leaving from a perpendicular runway. The controller ordered the inbound pilot to take a hard left and the outbound a hard right, avoiding a collision. The controllers say Kennedy is among a number of airports that use perpendicular runways simultaneously.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D91P5TLG0.htm>
17. *July 7, NBC 4 Washington DC* – (Maryland) **Terror drill training held at transit stations.** Local emergency officials held terror drills Monday at several Metro and MARC stations throughout Montgomery County, Maryland. More than 130 officials from area police, fire, and transportation safety units in addition to federal air marshals and Transportation and Security Administration officials are participating in detection and deterrent terrorism training exercises. Uniformed officers, K-9 teams, and other law enforcement were highly visible Monday. Some commuters said they were worried by the sight of extra law enforcement officers until they found out it was a drill. Authorities said the tests are routine training and are not prompted by any security threat. This is the third year Montgomery County police have done these drills.
Source: <http://www.nbc4.com/traffic/16807278/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *July 7, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Suspicious package found at Morehead post office.** Police and fire crews spent hours Saturday night at the Morehead, Kentucky, post office trying to figure out whether two suspicious packages were dangerous. Police say a woman discovered the two packages near a mail box just outside the post office. Hazardous materials crews were called, who then called in the state's bomb squad. A robot device picked up the packages and put them into a trailer. They were to later be detonated. Inside, investigators say were harmless tissues. Streets

around the post office as well as part of the bypass were closed for nearly four hours.
Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/23766159.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *July 7, McClatchy Newspapers* – (California) **California eyes destruction of dairy herds struck by TB.** Taxpayers could foot a hefty bill following the recent discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in three California herds. On Tuesday, top Agriculture Department officials will tour the affected dairy farms in Fresno and Tulare counties as a prelude to tough decisions on whether to destroy the herds and make multi-million dollar payouts that farmers are still likely to find inadequate. Dairy farmers with herds infected by bovine tuberculosis face several uncomfortable options. They can endure quarantine until testing proves the herd is clean again, which can take several years. Or, they can destroy the entire herd in exchange for Agriculture Department payments. The Agriculture Department currently provides farmers that destroy their entire herd with payments of up to \$3,000 per animal. The three affected San Joaquin Valley herds have 1,100, 4,800, and 14,000 head of cattle, respectively. That adds up to \$59.7 million for the three herds. That is still less than what the farmers think their herds are worth, however. The chief executive officer of the Modesto-based Western United Dairymen, noted that milk prices are currently high, raising the value of dairy cattle. Prices also rise when the cattle are formally registered as belonging to the Jersey or Holstein breed.

Source: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/257/story/43370.html>

20. *July 7, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA says Nebraska Beef slow to respond to E. coli.** Federal officials said Monday that Nebraska Beef Ltd. responded slowly to indications that its products might be tainted with E. coli, though it has now voluntarily recalled more than 5 million pounds of meat. Nebraska Beef was notified in the first half of June that two samples of its trim to be used in ground beef had tested positive for E. coli, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokeswoman said. The company's products were later linked to an outbreak of E. coli infections affecting 41 people in Michigan and Ohio. The recall announced last week was expanded from 531,707 to 5.3 million pounds on Thursday. A Nebraska Beef spokesman disagreed that the company was slow to respond. He said it added another lactic acid bath, which helps kill bacteria, to its Omaha, Nebraska, plant, and has hired an outside lab to test its products. The recalled beef was sold to wholesalers and distributors for further processing. So consumer labels likely will not include the "EST 19336" code that identifies Nebraska Beef. Twenty-two people have been hospitalized since the first case of E. coli linked to the beef was identified May 30, according to the CDC. One person has developed a type of kidney failure called hemolytic-uremic syndrome.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D91PAEOO0.htm>

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Water Sector

21. *July 7, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Alabama water systems to be placed on digital maps.** All of Alabama's water systems will be placed on digital maps. The cost of the project was not disclosed, but the governor said in a statement Monday that funding would come from federal, state, and local resources. The state Office of Water Resources will use Global Positioning System satellites to map the state's municipal and rural water systems. The data will help in the planning of future economic developments and assist cities and counties in sharing water resources during shortages. The project will take about three years to complete.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/07/07/ap5188873.html>

22. *July 7, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Climate change may muddy better-than bottled New York tap water.** New York City's tap water may become a casualty of climate change as warmer temperatures threaten to spoil the mountain reservoirs supplying nine million people. Water from the largest unfiltered delivery system in the U.S. may become dirtier as weather patterns shift, bringing stronger storms to the region, the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said in a May report. Heavy rains muddy reservoirs and wash in bacteria and parasites. That may force New York to spend \$10 billion on filtration, the DEP said. Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency said water from New York's Catskill and Delaware watersheds, about 90 percent of the city's supply, was still clear enough to avoid filtration. About ten percent of the system will be filtered by 2012. Drinking water from surface sources must meet federal standards. New York might be forced to filter all its water if it shows increased levels of pollutants, microbes, or excess turbidity, the cloudiness produced by tiny suspended particles. Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon, are also exempt from U.S. filtration requirements.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aiwYTGvQAURk&refer=energy>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *July 8, VNUNet* – (National) **Doctors turn to the web for disease tracking.** U.S. researchers believe that data from sources including discussion forums and news websites can help them better cope with outbreaks of disease. A team from the Children's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School has launched an automated data-gathering system called HealthMap to collate, organize, and disseminate this online intelligence. Describing the project in this week's PLoS Medicine, the team argues that online information can be hugely valuable to medical professionals by helping with early event detection. The data can also support "situational awareness" by providing current and local information about outbreaks. However, the researchers warned that

information overload poses “substantial barriers” to fully using this information. To overcome these problems, the authors created the freely accessible HealthMap Project, which they describe as a “multi-stream real-time surveillance platform that continually aggregates reports on new and ongoing infectious disease outbreaks”. The researchers argue that the use of web data can “facilitate early outbreak detection, increase public awareness of outbreaks prior to formal recognition, and provide an integrated and contextualized view of global health information”.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2221038/doctors-turn-web-disease>

24. *July 8, DBTechno* – (National) **Cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil linked to teen paralysis.** Gardasil, the cervical cancer vaccine from Merck & Co., has been linked to the paralysis of a 13-year old girl, as well as two other teenage girls. Gardasil was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2006, and was said to be between 90 percent and 100 percent effective in preventing the transmission of certain strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) that cause cervical cancer. Just a few weeks ago, the FDA stated that they could not yet approve the use of Gardasil for women aged 27-45. According to a news report from the U.S. News and World Report, a 13-year girl began to show signs of the degenerative muscle disease about a month after she received the vaccine Gardasil. Within 15-months, she was virtually paralyzed. Merck, as well as the FDA have yet to acknowledge that the vaccine is linked to paralysis in any way. Two other teenage girls have experienced paralysis after being given the vaccine Gardasil. Both have suits pending against Merck.
Source: <http://www.dbtechno.com/health/2008/07/08/cervical-cancer-vaccine-gardasil-linked-to-teen-paralysis/>
25. *July 8, Deutsche Presse-Agentur* – (National) **Hong Kong expert warns flu vaccine for chickens losing efficacy.** A vaccine used to stop outbreaks of the deadly bird flu virus in chickens in Hong Kong for the last seven years is losing its effectiveness, the head of microbiology at the University of Hong Kong told the South China Morning Post Tuesday. He said the vaccine, which protects chicken from the H5 strain of the virus, is becoming less effective and the city risks further outbreaks because total failure is inevitable. He said the virus was mutating and shifting away from the Fujian strain of H5N2 that it was developed for. His warning follows an outbreak of H5N1 virus in four wet markets in Hong Kong in June, the first in years in the former British colony.
Source:
http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/health/news/article_1415563.php/Hong_Kong_expert_warns_flu_vaccine_for_chickens_losing_efficacy
26. *July 8, Reuters* – (National) **New vaccine sneaks into body, then self-destructs.** A new type of vaccine that sneaks into the body and then self-destructs -- all without needles -- may offer a new way to protect against a range of diseases, U.S. researchers reported on Monday. The researchers genetically engineered a type of Salmonella bacteria to carry a little piece of Streptococcus and dripped it into the mouths of mice. Reporting in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, they said the vaccine protected the mice, and the Salmonella carrier blew itself up. The vaccine protected mice from infection, carrying the strep antigen into cells. Then, before the Salmonella could do any

damage, it burst open. The lead researcher believes the approach could be used against not only bacteria, but viruses, fungal infections and parasites. It might solve the problem of using so-called live vaccines, he said. Such vaccines are highly effective but even when the bacteria or virus used to make the vaccine is attenuated, or weakened, it can escape and mutate into a dangerous form to cause disease.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSN0744362220080708?feedType=RSS&feedName=scienceNews&sp=true>

27. *July 7, Cibola County Beacon* – (New Mexico) **Plague, West Nile Virus cases confirmed.** New Mexico's Department of Health Scientific Laboratory confirmed that mosquitoes from Las Cruces tested positive for West Nile Virus this week. The Department has also confirmed plague in six cats and three dogs from Bernalillo, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba counties so far this year. There has been one case of plague in an Eddy County man who got the disease in January from hunting rabbits. There have been no human cases of West Nile so far this year.

Source: <http://www.cibolabeacon.com/articles/2008/07/07/news/news13.txt>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *July 7, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Suspicious package detonated at Army post in Texas.** U.S. Army officials have blown up a suspicious package found near a commercial traffic gate at Fort Bliss in Texas. A base spokeswoman said the item was found by Fort Bliss law enforcement officers at about 9 a.m. Monday. An Army bomb-sniffing dog alerted its handlers to some sort of explosive scent in the package. Army explosives experts detonated the item in a field away from the gate. No injuries were reported. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken over the investigation.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gTZI2gLPNewpPrJTDcA-8UxIQ1dwD91P6AFO0>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *July 8, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Heat emergency plan activated; Cooling centers open.** With triple-digit temperatures predicted throughout the state this week, the governor activated California's Contingency Plan for Excessive Heat Emergencies on Monday. The plan requires the Office of Emergency Services to work with local agencies to help educate Californians about proper precautions. "We are coordinating with state and local agencies to help keep people safe during this excessive heat wave," the governor said. The Office of Emergency Services is operating 24 hours a day to coordinate the state's firefighting efforts, but more staff will be added to monitor heat conditions and respond to emergencies.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=44344&provider=top>

30. *July 8, NewsDay* – (New York) **Research facility could bring jobs to Long Island.** Two million dollars in federal funding for the Applied Science Center for Innovation and Excellence in Homeland Security Research Foundation Corp. was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on June 24 as part of a Homeland Security funding bill that will come to the Senate floor this year. President George W. Bush has threatened to veto the bill because it contains more funds than he requested, although two New York congressmen said they were hopeful it would be enacted. The money would fund a Department of Homeland Security research facility that would develop new technology for first responders.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/nassau/ny-ussecu085756245jul08,0,6392742.story>

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Information Technology

31. *July 8, Heise.de* – (International) **Phishing and link spam spreading on MSN.** An avalanche of phishing is now roaring through Microsoft's MSN network, luring recipients to a page that asks for their MSN login data. Those who respond will find themselves on a page displaying a few photographs, which are linked to search queries. Evidently a background script checks whether these access data are useful by logging in to MSN as the user. Shortly thereafter, all the account holder's friends are sent messages containing URLs that take them to similar pages. Although most people never bother, reading the small print of the "Terms of Use" or "Privacy Policy" gives the game away. It's stated there, quite openly, that the access data will be used in order to show friends "new, entertaining pages". It claims not to be a phishing site because, after all, the use made of the data is precisely as described.
Source: <http://www.heise.de/english/newsticker/news/110570>
32. *July 7, SearchSecurity* – (International) **Microsoft warns of attacks against Microsoft Access zero-day flaw.** Microsoft issued an advisory Monday warning customers of active, targeted attacks using a zero-day flaw in the Snapshot Viewer ActiveX control for Microsoft Access. The Snapshot Viewer is used to view database report snapshots that are created with any version of Microsoft Access. The flaw could allow an attacker to gain user rights on a system, Microsoft said. The ActiveX control is shipped with all supported versions of Microsoft Office Access except for Microsoft Office Access 2007, according to Microsoft. The vulnerability affects the Snapshot Viewer in Microsoft Office Access 2000, Microsoft Office Access 2002 and Microsoft Office Access 2003. Microsoft said websites, such as blogs which accept or host user-provided content could contain specially crafted content that could exploit this vulnerability. An attacker would have to lure users through an email or instant message to visit a malicious website to pull off a successful attack. Danish vulnerability clearinghouse Secunia rated the flaw "extremely critical" in its 30883 advisory, because the vulnerability is currently being actively exploited in the wild.
Source: http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14_gci1320323,00.html

33. *July 7, CXOToday* – (International) **Trojans most circulated malware in Q2'08: Report.** More than 63 percent of new malicious codes that appeared during the second quarter of 2008 were Trojans, followed by Adware at 22.40 percent, according to the latest quarterly report from PandaLabs. The report said that the Bagle.RP worm (a relatively low-threat level Trojan that spreads and affects other computers) infected most computers, followed by the Puce.E and Bagle.SP worms. Puce.E spreads through P2P programs. Bagle.SP mainly spreads via emails. According to PandaLab's malware encyclopedia, Bagle.SP generates a large amount of network activity in the local network, consuming critical bandwidth. Trojans were also responsible for most infections in the second quarter of 2008, accounting for 28.7 percent of the total. Adware, which held first place in the first quarter of the year, was the cause of 22.03 percent of infections, and worms were the culprits in 13.52 percent of cases. According to Panda, the present scenario makes it difficult for cyber criminals to infect a large number of computers without attracting attention. Hackers therefore, create different Trojans and target users of a specific service or utility, etc.

Source:

http://www.cxotoday.com/India/News/Trojans_Most_Circulated_Malware_in_Q208_Report/551-90884-909.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

34. *July 7, Guardian Unlimited* – (International) **China hails satellite killer – and stuns its rivals in space.** China has given notice of its increasing power in space – and provoked widespread international concern – with a successful test of an anti-satellite weapon that could be used to knock out enemy surveillance and communications craft. In the first such test since the cold war era, the White House confirmed that China had used a medium-range ballistic missile, launched from the ground, to destroy an aging weather satellite more than 500 miles into space. “We are aware of it and we are concerned, and we made it known,” the White House spokesman, Tony Snow, told reporters. The January 11th test was the first of its kind since 1985 when Washington halted such exercises because of fears of damaging military and civilian satellites with large clouds of debris. The test was especially troubling because it exposed the vulnerability of America's dependence on low-orbiting satellites, which are used for military communications, smart bombs, and surveillance. In theory, last week's exercise could give Beijing the capability to knock out such satellites - a realization that underlay the protests from Washington. Australia and Canada also voiced concerns; Britain, South Korea, and Japan were expected to follow. “The U.S. believes China's development and testing of such weapons is inconsistent with the spirit of cooperation that both countries

aspire to in the civil space area,” a White House spokesman, said. “We and other countries have expressed our concern regarding this action to the Chinese.”

Source: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/206313.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *July 8, Asia Times* – (International) **Beijing flicks the safety switch.** Shifting from an overtly idealistic agenda to a much more pragmatic approach, the Chinese government has quietly softened its public aspirations ahead of the Beijing Summer Olympics next month. Beijing is – understandably – now placing safety as top priority and setting aside other concerns. It is rumored that the Chinese president ordered the “safety-first” mantra. International terrorist organizations may see the Olympics as a prime opportunity to launch attacks, and they might not necessarily be aimed at China. Beijing is also worried that pro-Tibet activists or Xinjiang province’s Uyghur separatists may try to steal the spotlight with acts of sabotage. There are also growing concerns among Chinese officials about other potential internal threats. Some Chinese residents, discontented with the government for various reasons, may create incidents on the sidelines of the Games in an attempt to highlight their respective problems or demands.

Source: <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/JG09Ad01.html>

36. *July 7, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **Blue Cross building evacuated following bomb threat.** The entire Blue Cross Blue Shield building in the Town of Wallkill was evacuated Monday morning after a bomb threat was discovered on a recorded telephone message. The caller warned a bomb was set to go off at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Town Police were assisted by the Orange County Sheriff’s K-9 unit, which was nearby conducting training. As a result, five K-9 teams responded and swept the building with no suspicious packages found, said the Wallkill Police chief.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/July08/07/Wallkill_bomb scare-07Jul08.htm

37. *July 7, Xinhua* – (International) **Olympics: NW China province orders restaurants to keep food samples for 48 hours.** All restaurant and hotel managers in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province have been told to preserve their food samples for 48 hours during the Beijing Olympic period for fear of possible food safety incidents. Emergency teams for handling such incidents must stand by around the clock, according to the Provincial Food Safety Committee. Supervision efforts will be focused on restaurants and hotels at key tourist cities, famous scenic spots, airports and railway, and long-distance bus stations, the committee said. “It is expected that a large number of overseas tourists will visit Shaanxi during the Games period. We must ensure food safety and a safe Olympics,” said the head of the committee’s general office and deputy head of the Provincial Food and Drug Administration.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/07/content_8505909.htm

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

38. *July 8, Inland News Today* – (California) **Lake Perris Dam to get safety back-up.** A plan to improve earthquake safety at the Lake Perris Dam in California is moving ahead. When a study cast doubt on the stability of the dam in the event of a major earthquake, engineers drew up plans for a stability berm below the dam. An emergency overflow channel to the Perris Valley storm drain would divert water away from thousands of homes in the event the dam ruptures. The project coordinator says the project is on a fast track: “Construction could begin this fall provided we get all the environmental documentation in order.” Construction would take about two years. Lake Perris was partially drained to minimize pressure on the dam.

Source: <http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=2297>

39. *July 7, McClatchy Newspapers* – (National) **Midwest flooding sparks debate over taller levees.** The devastation caused by a few inches of river height is now triggering a national debate over whether billions of dollars should be spent to build taller levees like the one that gave way in western Illinois. At issue is whether taxpayers already laden with high taxes and economic struggles are willing to foot the enormous bill – estimated between \$4 billion and \$6 billion – to protect farmers and small towns relying on aging dirt levees that were not designed to hold back great floods. After years of study, a proposal is now floating around Washington that includes several options of building higher levees and fortifying them. In the final drafts, the staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is reviewing its recommendation, continues in opposition to building up levees at such large costs. Ultimately, it will be up to Congress to decide the fate of the proposals in hearings that could begin late this year.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=20080707_13_Ashel15817

40. *July 6, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Levee group to review seepage on its own.** Regional east bank levee leaders will seek an independent review of the seepage at the 17th Street Canal without aid from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or state government. Little more than a month after the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East invited the Corps and Louisiana coastal protection representatives to join them in securing independent, expert reviews of canal seepage, some levee officials said this week that they now want to go it alone. Securing third-party reviews of select Corps projects has been a source of continuing controversy since some key components of the Corps-built hurricane protection system failed during Hurricane Katrina. Small amounts of water have been seeping out of the New Orleans side of the 17th Street Canal off and on for months. Although Corps officials have not absolutely identified the seepage source, they have said they are convinced that it poses no risk to the public. Meanwhile,

a number of high profile Corps critics have said they fear the Corps is underestimating the potential for seepage-induced failures throughout marshy southeast Louisiana. And levee authority commissioners say they are obligated to separate fact from fiction.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1215322929206870.xml&coll=1>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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